

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
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23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A snowmobile comprising:
a body frame, the body frame comprising a front cover at a forward portion of the body frame and a track housing;
a crawler having a drive wheel, the drive wheel being accommodated by the track housing;
a ski-runner attached to the body frame;
a front suspension disposed in a front part of the body frame;
an engine compartment situated on the body frame and within the front cover;
a four-cycle engine mounted in the engine compartment;
a drysump oil supplying system which supplies the four-cycle engine with engine oil from an oil tank disposed inside the engine compartment;
an oil pan situated at a bottom of the engine compartment and in a location between a point of attachment of the front suspension housing to the body frame and the track housing;
a port provided in a portion of the body frame which defines a bottom of the engine compartment, the port providing access to the oil pan for permitting maintenance work from outside the engine compartment when the port is open.

30. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 29, further comprising a lid which closes the port.

31. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein the port protrudes into the engine compartment by a distance approximately equal to a thickness of the lid.

32. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein the port is configured in the engine compartment so that the lid of the port is substantially flush with the bottom of the engine compartment.

33. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein the port has its major dimension parallel to a width direction of the body frame.

34. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 29, wherein the four-cycle engine is mounted in an approximately upright position.

35. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 29, wherein the body frame has a width dimension which is essentially perpendicular to a direction of travel, and wherein the engine is tilted forward in the direction of travel.

36. (Previously Presented) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein front side of the lid is engaged at front side of the opening port with a hinge.

37. (CANCELLED) A snowmobile comprising:
a body frame, the body frame comprising a front cover at a forward portion of the body frame and a track housing;
a crawler having a drive wheel, the drive wheel being accommodated by the track housing;
a ski-runner attached to the body frame;
a front suspension disposed in a front part of the body frame;
an engine compartment situated on the body frame and within the front cover;
a four-cycle engine mounted in the engine compartment;
a drysump oil supplying system which supplies the four-cycle engine with engine oil from an oil tank disposed inside the engine compartment;
an oil pan situated at a bottom of the engine compartment and in a location between a point of attachment of the front suspension housing to the body frame and the track housing;
a port provided in a portion of the body frame which defines a bottom of the engine compartment, the port providing access to the oil pan for permitting maintenance work from

outside the engine compartment when the port is open, wherein the port has its major dimension parallel to a width direction of the body frame.

Please add new claims 38-50 as follows:

38. (New) A snowmobile comprising:

a body frame, the body frame comprising a front cover and a track housing;

a ski-runner attached to the body frame;

a front suspension supporting the ski-runner and attached to the body frame at a front suspension attachment point;

a crawler connected to the body frame and at least partially accommodated in the track housing;

a windshield formed on the body frame;

a four-cycle engine which drives the crawler, the engine comprising:

an intake path arranged vertically beneath the windshield;

a drysump oil supplying system that supplies the engine with engine oil, the drysump oil supplying system comprising:

an oil tank disposed inside an engine compartment that is enclosed by the front cover;

an oil pan arranged between the front suspension attachment point and the track housing.

39. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, wherein the intake path comprises an intake manifold and a carburetor.

40. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, further comprising an oil strainer provided in the oil pan.

41. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, further comprising:
an exhaust manifold extending frontward from the engine in the engine compartment from the engine;
a supercharger arranged in proximity to the exhaust manifold.

42. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, wherein a crankshaft of the engine is oriented along a body width direction of the snowmobile.

43. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, wherein the oil pan is disposed in the vicinity of and adjacent to the lowest portion of the engine compartment.

44. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, further comprising:
a port provided in a portion of the body frame which defines a bottom of the engine compartment, the port providing access to the oil pan for maintenance work from outside the engine compartment when the port is open;
a lid which closes the port.

45. (New) The snowmobile of claim 44, wherein the lid is hinged for closing the port.

46. (New) The snowmobile of claim 44, wherein the lid is selectively fastened by a fastener to the portion of the body frame which defines the bottom of the engine compartment.

47. (New) The snowmobile of claim 44, wherein the lid is threaded for threading selective engagement with the portion of the body frame which defines the bottom of the engine compartment.

48. (New) The snowmobile of claim 44, further comprising a steering shaft connected to the ski-runner for steering the snowmobile, the steering shaft being arranged in the engine

compartment to a rear of the engine oil pan, and wherein the port is in front of the steering shaft.

49. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, further comprising a steering shaft connected to the ski-runner for steering the snowmobile, the steering shaft being arranged in the engine compartment to a rear of the engine oil pan.

50. (New) The snowmobile of claim 38, wherein the four-cycle engine is mounted in an approximately upright position.